

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 /078 W  
-----102109Z 018089 /62

R 101050Z JUN 77  
FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4256  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMCONSUL BREMEN  
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF  
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT  
RUFHMUGHAMCONSUL MUNICH 647  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L HAMBURG 701

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, GW  
SUBJECT: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION  
SUMMARY: I THINK THE SDU IS A STALKING HORSE FOR FRANZ  
JOSEF STRAUSS, AND I THINK IT HAS VERY SHORT LEGS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 17, THE "DAY OF NATIONAL UNITY," A CTW PARTY,  
THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION (SDU), WILL BE OFFICIALLY  
LAUNCHED IN MOENCHEN-GLADBACH, NOT VERY FAR FROM COLOGNE.

2. ON JUNE 9, I SPENT AN HOUR WITH THE FOUNDER OF THIS  
PARTY, HANS GUENTHER WEBER (61), A FORMER MEMBER OF THE  
CONSERVATIVE WING OF THE SPD AND PRESENTLY CITY DIRECTOR  
FOR BRAUNSCHWEIG, LOWER SAXONY.

3. WEBER SAYS THAT THE PRESENTLY EXISTING "SUPPORT  
CLUB" OF THE SDU HAS 3,300 MEMBERS AND A VERY LARGE NUMBER  
OF SYMPATHISERS. HE CLAIMS THAT HE HAS NO PERSONAL  
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AMBITION AND THAT HE IS TAKING THIS STEP BECAUSE HE  
FEELS THAT THE SPD HAS EMPHASIZED SOCIALISM AT THE  
EXPENSE OF DEMOCRACY WHILE THE CDU DOES NOT OFFER A  
VIABLE ALTERNATIVE BECAUSE OF ITS INEPT LEADERSHIP. WEBER  
SAYS THAT PARTY EXPENSES SO FAR HAVE BEEN COVERED BY  
MEMBERSHIP FEES (5 DM PER YEAR - A FEE THAT WILL LATER  
INCREASE), A CLAIM DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE IF ONE HAS

SEEN THE FIRST TWO ISSUES OF THE SDU ORGAN "FREEDOM AND PROGRESS," AND THAT HE INTENDS TO HAVE CANDIDATES IN ALL THE LANDTAG ELECTIONS BEGINNING WITH HAMBURG IN MAY OF NEXT YEAR.

4. COMMENT: LOWER SAXONY HAS LONG BEEN FERTILE GROUND FOR SPLINTER PARTIES AND WAS THE SITE OF THE ONLY SUCCESSFUL "ELECTION ALLIANCE" (WAHLBUENDNIS) IN THE HISTORY OF POST-WAR GERMANY, I.E. THE ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE CDU AND THE NOW-DEFUNCT DEUTSCHE PARTEI ADENAUER MANAGED SO WELL IN THE FEDERAL ELECTION OF 1957. A SECOND THING TO NOTE IS THAT WEBER, A CO-FOUNDER OF THE SPD AFTER THE WAR AND A CO-FOUNDER ALSO OF THE FRITZ ERLER SOCIETY (CONSERVATIVE SPD), HAS THE CREDENTIALS TO GIVE LEGITIMACY TO THE SDU. A THIRD COMMENT IS PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL: THERE WAS A REPORT ON THE WEEKEND OF JUNE 4-5 THAT FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS HAD MET WITH HERBERT WEHNER IN A SECRET PLACE TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF A GRANT COALITION. THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS, AS WEBER TOLD ME WITH OBVIOUS PRIDE, HE AND FRANZ JOSEF MET FOR THREE HOURS IN HANNOVER. AND, AS A LAST OBSERVATION, THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL GUENTHER MUELLER'S DEFECTION FROM THE SPD IN MUNICH AT THE TIME OF THE 1972 ELECTION AND THE EPHEMERAL NATURE OF THE SOMETHING-OR-OTHER PARTY HE FOUNDED THERE, AT CSU EXPENSE, BEFORE FINALLY BECOMING HIMSELF A MEMBER OF THE CSU.

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5. IT SEEMS TO ME CLOSE TO A CERTAINTY THAT THE SDU WILL ALSO BE EPHEMERAL, UNLESS IT HAS THE UNLIKELY SUCCESS OF RECRUITING MEN OF NATIONAL STATURE TO ITS BANNER AND, EQUALLY UNLIKELY, CONCOCTS A PROGRAM THAT WILL BE BOTH UNIQUE AND APPEALING. ON THE WHOLE, HOWEVER, I THINK THAT THE EXPLANATION FOR THE FOUNDATION OF THIS PARTY LIES IN THE AMBITIONS OF FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS OUTSIDE BAVARIA AND THE WOUNDED PRIDE OF WEBER WHO FEELS THAT THE SPD HAS NEVER PAID HIM PROPER RESPECT. END COMMENT. KISELYAK

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Subject:** THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC UNION SUMMARY: I THINK THE SDU IS A STALKING HORSE FOR FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS, AND I THINK IT HAS VERY SHORT LEGS.  
**TAGS:** PINT, GE, SDU, (STRAUSS, FRANZ JOSEPH)  
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